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June 8, 1959

Synopsis of State and Intelligence material reported to the President

ISRAEL

Hammaraskjold held a press conference in which he favored a shift of the Suez transit problem to the International Court of Justice. Ben-Gurion is much upset over this statement and asked what could be done if the Secretary General questions the legality of the orders of the UN. Israel apparently will not request a special session of the General Assembly, but may well take the matter to the Security Council.

JORDAN-UAR-ISRAEL

The UAR has alleged Jordanian harassment of Syria in the border area. Accordingly, they have cut off the Jordanian supply route through Syria and have stepped up propaganda attacks against King Hussein. Jordanian authorities have been restrained but have protested this action to the UN representative in the area. Meanwhile, tensions between the UAR and Israel result from air clash over the Sinai Desert on 7 June.

LAOS

The situation with regard to the Pathet Laos battalion remains confused. Apparently it has slipped from the clutches of the Laotians and may now be moving toward the northern Viet-Namense border. On 6 June the Laotian cabinet decided to release from house arrest the leaders of the NLFH but to maintain surveillance. The Crown Prince is considering, however, reversing this and prosecuting these leaders.

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CUBA

Apparently Castro's men took a shot at some pro-Batista Cuban exiles in the Dominican Republic. Due to the large number of Batista sympathizers in that country, the Cuban Embassy wound up sacked and is said to have been totally wrecked. The Charge and his staff have left for Cuba and a break in relations is probably imminent. A smaller incident has occurred in Haiti where the Cuban Ambassador's car was ambushed on 6 June. The Embassy blames this on the Dominicans.

GERMANY

Embassy Bonn has analyzed Adenauer's decision to remain Chancellor as the redification of an earlier error in thinking. Adenauer had deluded himself that he could continue to direct affairs from the presidency and through his own man as Chancellor. Since this obviously has fallen through, he has now decided to accept the political damage which will result from his present decision.

The Embassy believes that the effects will be profound. It is believed that Erhard, Gerstenmaier and other dissidents will not, however, risk a party split by open revolt. Also this move will damage Adenauer's popularity somewhat. Embassy Bonn speculates that its effects may be stronger in Bonn than in the electorate in general. Adenauer has said that this, too, will blow over.

One of the most confused issues is the question of a CDU presidential candidate. Adenauer's statement that he made this decision at the urging of the Americans is being played down by the CDU. The whip advised the press that it would be false to say that the Americans talked him into this act.



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